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26 February 1969

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Melvin R. Laird
Secretary of Defense

1. During testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning, I was asked to comment on comparative United States and Soviet military expenditures. Since one inevitably has some difficulty in answering this question in various forms and with different ingredients, I read to the Committee the specific piece of paper which is attached hereto.

2. I am sending this to you, so that you will know exactly what I said. One word of explanation: The dollar figures used for the United States derive from official Department of Defense documents. Incidentally, the attached statement reflects the same figures my people sent to DDR&E on 23 January 1969 at their request.

3. If you have any questions about these breakdowns, I would be glad to send over an officer to talk with you who is thoroughly familiar with Soviet military economic matters.

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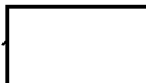


Richard Helms
Director

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Attachment - 1

cc.



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